<b>WASHINGTON. D.C.</b> – House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Ranking Member Darrell Issa (R-CA), today, asked House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to follow precedent established in the 110 th Congress and urge Rep. Peter J. Visclosky to resign from the Committee on Appropriations pending the outcome of an ongoing federal investigation into his congressional and campaign activities.
"With public confidence in Congress at an all-time low it is imperative, when faced with situations such as Rep. Visclosky's, that House leaders act responsibly and without delay to safeguard the integrity of the House," said Rep. Issa in a letter to the speaker. "You will recall that during the last Congress, Republican Leader Boehner moved decisively to secure the resignations of several embattled colleagues, former Reps. Rick Renzi and John Doolittle, from their own committee assignments. He did so as soon as the controversies surrounding those Members escalated from unconfirmed allegations in the news media to the Justice Department using the courts to compel the production of evidence by those Members."
The text of the letter sent to Speaker Pelosi follows below:

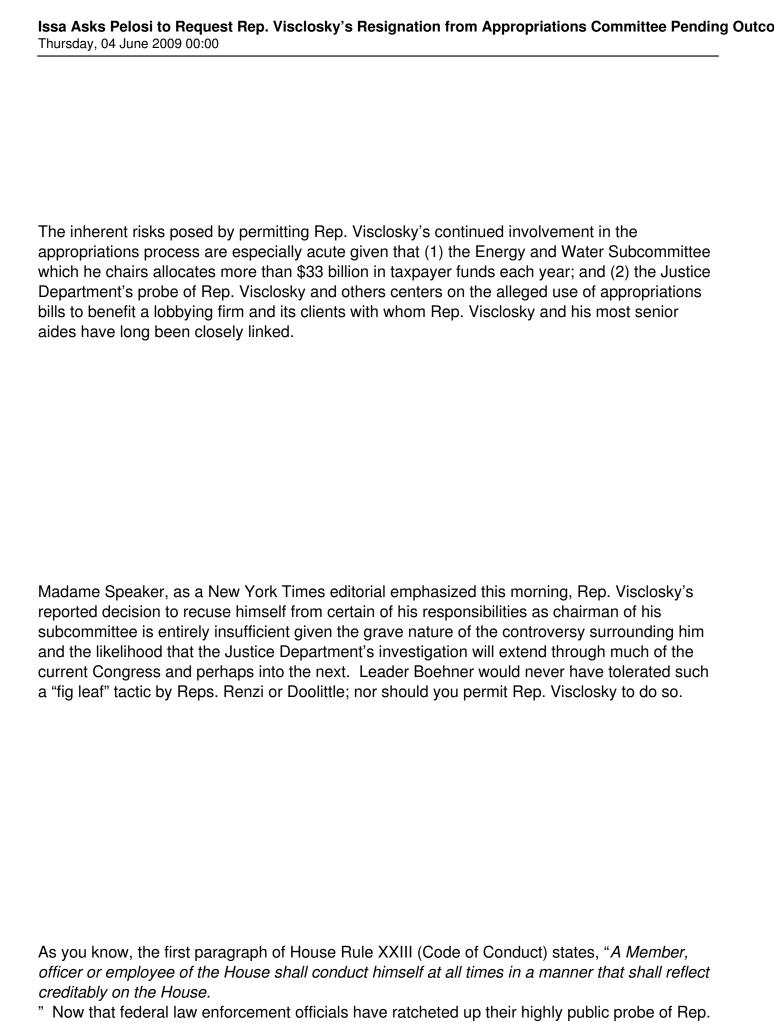
Thursday, 04 June 2009 00:00		
June 4, 2009		
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi		
Charles		
Speaker		
U.S. House of Representatives		
,		
Washington, DC 20515		
Dear Speaker Pelosi:		



I am writing to request that you honor the precedent established during the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress and urge your Democratic colleague, Representative Peter J. Visclosky, to resign immediately from the Committee on Appropriations pending the outcome of an ongoing federal investigation into his congressional and campaign activities.

As you know, the House has been officially notified that federal law enforcement officials recently served multiple subpoenas on Representative Visclosky's congressional and campaign offices. The subpoenas seek documents as well as testimony by current and former Visclosky employees in connection with the Justice Department's highly publicized probe of Rep. Visclosky's relationship with, and official actions on behalf of, the now-defunct PMA lobbying firm and its clients.

With public confidence in Congress at an all-time low it is imperative, when faced with situations such as Rep. Visclosky's, that House leaders act responsibly and without delay to safeguard the integrity of the House. You will recall that during the last Congress, Republican Leader Boehner moved decisively to secure the resignations of several embattled colleagues, former Reps. Rick Renzi and John Doolittle, from their own committee assignments. He did so as soon as the controversies surrounding those Members escalated from unconfirmed allegations in the news media to the Justice Department using the courts to compel the production of evidence by those Members.



Visclosky, he must resign immediately from the Committee on Appropriations. Doing so will not only enable our colleague to turn his full attention to clearing his name, but also make clear to the public that congressional leaders will no longer permit lawmakers who are the subjects of court ordered federal law enforcement actions to retain key positions of power and influence within the House.
Time is of the essence, Madame Speaker. The media is having a field day with this scandal just as the House is moving into the heart of the critically important annual appropriations season.
Sincerely,
Darrell Issa

rsday, 04 June 2009 00:00			
mber of Congress			